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DEPARTMENT OF  
SPEECH AND HEARING SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
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CAREERS IN  
SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY  
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The professions related to speech and hearing science (Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology) are generally viewed as helping professions, because they deal with the communicative handicaps that interfere with a child's education, with an individual's functioning in society, or with the quality of a person's life. Careers in speech and hearing science, however, are not limited to providing direct services to handicapped individuals and include careers in business, research laboratories, government agencies, and universities.

A Baccalaureate degree in Speech and Hearing Science prepares one to enter a graduate program in Speech-Language Pathology or Audiology (a Masters degree and clinical certification are required of those who choose to pursue a clinical career) or a variety of other post-baccalaureate programs, including psychology, special education, business, and medical or dental school.

Graduates of the University of Illinois in Speech and Hearing Science hold positions in school systems; in hospitals or medical practices; and in community, university, and private clinics. They also work in governmental agencies, research laboratories, and business (communication, manufacturing, and sales). Many also have chosen to go into the private practice of Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, or some other independent enterprise.

Speech-Language Pathologists work with infants and children who are delayed in their acquisition of speech and language or who demonstrate communicative disorders due to cleft palate or other orofacial anomalies and neurological dysfunction (cerebral palsy, autism, mental retardation). They also work with children who have problems with articulation, voice, or fluency (stuttering). Adult communicative dis-

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orders managed by Speech-Language Pathologists include those due to stroke or head injury (aphasia) or to surgical or disease related changes to the vocal tract (alaryngeal speech, voice disorders). Also they may work with adults who stutter or have a foreign dialect.

Audiologists are concerned with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing disorders. They may identify and provide rehabilitative services to hearing-impaired children or adults. They may fit and dispense hearing aids to both children and adults. Hearing conservation and noise abatement are two additional areas of concern and employment for the Audiologist.

Because research is the vital link between understanding human communication and the prevention, identification, and treatment of communicative disorders, some individuals choose to work as speech and hearing scientists in research laboratories and university facilities.

## **PROGRAMS OF STUDY**

The Department of Speech and Hearing Science offers undergraduate and graduate programs of study in Speech-Language Pathology, Audiology, and Speech and Hearing Science. The Department is in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and shares the mission of the College and University. That mission is (1) to foster scholarly inquiry and the generation of knowledge, (2) to prepare the undergraduate student for a variety of post-Baccalaureate careers, and (3) to serve the public. The Department honors the tradition of a Liberal Arts education which includes fluency and facility in English, literacy in at least one foreign language, computer literacy, and a broad exposure to a number of different disciplines (humanities, social science, natural science, and physical science).

In their study of the speech and hearing sciences, students learn about the basic processes of human communication and the disorders of human communication. Course work in the area of basic processes includes development of spoken language, phonetics, phonology, linguistics,

anatomy and physiology of speech, language, hearing structures, acoustics, and normal auditory function. In the area of communicative disorders students study language disorders in children, phonological deviancy, fluency disorders, voice disorders, neurological disorders of speech and language, auditory disorders, and aural rehabilitation. Courses in communicative disorders include attention to the identification and treatment of each disorder.

As undergraduates, students have the opportunity to observe and participate in the delivery of clinical service to communicatively handicapped individuals through the Department's Speech and Hearing Clinics. They also are eligible to become members of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association (NSSLHA), which allows them many of the privileges of the profession, including receipt of journals and reduced registration for national and regional meetings.

Courses in Speech and Hearing Science are taught by the faculty; and, because classes typically include fewer than 40 students, their expertise and personal commitment create a learning environment in which student initiative can be encouraged. The ratings by students place courses and instructors in Speech and Hearing well above the Campus averages.

An Honors program allows students to study special topics and develop independent research projects under the guidance of a faculty member.

## **CLASSROOM AND CLINICAL FACILITIES**

Excellent classroom, research, and clinical facilities are housed in a modern building conveniently located in the heart of the University of Illinois campus. The Speech and Hearing Science Building contains an extensive departmental library and student study facilities. A technically current Listening Laboratory well equipped with tape recorders, microphones, and headphone sets, provides students with the opportunity to practice phonetic transcription and improve their own speaking skills. The Laboratory also houses five PLATO terminals which provide computerized lessons in statistics and phonetics.



A closed-circuit television system in the Speech and Hearing Building allows for direct observation of clinical practicum activities by both students and faculty in clinics and classes. The capability of videotaping sessions enhances classroom, research, and clinical activities by providing students with an opportunity to evaluate their own clinical work, view tapes selected from a videotape library, and analyze tapes as a part of classroom discussion or research projects.

In the Speech and Hearing Clinics, students observe a full range of clinical services and, in their senior year, begin to participate in the delivery of those services. Individuals seen in the Clinics exhibit disorders ranging from pre-school and school-age language learning difficulties, stuttering, voice problems, to speech and language difficulties which can follow head injury or stroke or following surgical removal of the larynx. Individuals with communication disorders due to a cleft palate or hearing loss are also seen for rehabilitation. The well-equipped Hearing Clinic allows for complete training in diagnostic testing, brain stem response, hearing-aid evaluation, dispensing of hearing aids, and follow-up treatment. The clinical program has been accredited by the Professional Service Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

## **RESEARCH FACILITIES**

The Department maintains state-of-the-art laboratories which allow students hands-on experiences while assisting faculty members with ongoing research projects. Within audiology and hearing science, research is being conducted in the areas of speech perception in noise, tinnitus, speech perception and production in the hearing impaired, rehabilitative audiology, diagnostic audiology, basic and applied event-related and evoked potentials, and anatomical, physiological, and psychological bases of monaural and binaural information processing. Research in the areas of speech pathology and speech science includes the anatomy and physiology of the speech mechanism, orofacial pathologies, voice disorders, alaryngeal speech, and stuttering in adults and children. Research is also being con-

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ducted in the field of language science and language disorders. Language development, language and phonological disorders in children, language of minority handicapped children, aphasia, counseling, and inter-personal behaviors of individuals with communication disorders are areas of ongoing research.

Department facilities include computerized laboratories equipped to study various areas of Speech and Hearing Science, Speech-Language Pathology, and Audiology. In addition, the Department houses a multi-user computer facility with network capabilities to other laboratories and campus computers.

For further information about careers in Speech and Hearing Science and about the undergraduate or graduate program please contact the:

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